

A REALISTIC PICTURE.

It Proved Too Absorbing For Old Uncle Juniper.

The Mississippi courtroom was packed with negroes, and it was fairly evident, says a contributor to the Taylor-Trotwood Magazine, that something of unusual interest was about to transpire. Within the bar on the prisoner's seat an old negro leaned eagerly forward as his attorney argued his plea of not guilty before the jury.

"Who, gentlemen of the jury, has sworn that he saw this man commit this theft?" demanded the attorney. "We have broken every link in the weak chain of circumstantial evidence with which the state has tried to entangle him. Why, his neighbor, Tom Jones, swore that he sold him the meat that was found in the defendant's house and that he shot the hog because it was wild.

"It is true that Colonel Smith swore that one of his hogs disappeared about Dec. 23 and that about fifty yards from a certain stump he found blood and then followed a trail of blood from that spot to this defendant's cabin. But what of that?"

"This defendant told you—and his wife and brother swore the same—that that was the blood of a con which he had shot and carried home the day before Smith lost his hog. Give him justice as you would do if he were a white man. He cannot help being black. The leopard cannot change his spots nor the Ethiopian his skin." For twenty years he has been a leader in the church. Let him remain free to enjoy the bread of life with others of the faithful.

As the lawyer sat down the women, who had been "weaving" back and forth for some minutes, commenced to shout:

"Bress de Lawd!" "Dar, now!" "We knows yo's innocent, Br'er Juniper!"

The sheriff had to threaten to clear the courtroom before order was restored. When at last there was silence the district attorney rose.

"Gentlemen of the jury," he began in closing the case for the state, "I desire only to bring a picture to your minds."

Here the prisoner adjusted his big brass rimmed spectacles as if to see the picture, and his manner showed that he was determined to let no detail escape him.

"The 23d of last December," continued the district attorney, "found Juniper Bradley without meat. His son was coming to spend Christmas with him. But Juniper did not worry, for only half a mile away in Marsie Smith's woods were some fat hogs.

"An hour before sunset Juniper was kneeling behind a large stump in these woods, with his rifle pointing toward a hog that at some distance away was rooting among the leaves."

The district attorney paused. Taking a cane to represent a rifle, he knelt behind a chair. After some minutes of moving to right and left, now raising, now lowering his rifle, he took careful aim and then fired, imitating the noise of a report very successfully.

At the sound Juniper, who had been smiling, apparently oblivious to everything save the district attorney's movements, exclaimed:

"Yes, sah, dat's des de way I done hit, boss!"

The laugh that followed brought Juniper to a realization of what he had done, and he shuffled round in the prisoner's seat, muttering, "Nigger got to show nobow!"

The Last Move.

Bobby is the son of a Methodist minister and has had the experience of "moving" four times in the space of his eight years' life. He disapproves strongly of the itinerant system which is the bane of the Methodist clergy. Some time ago an elderly minister was visiting Bobby's father and directed his attention to the small boy, asking him many questions of a semi-theological nature. Finally the course of the conversation turned to heaven, and Bobby was asked concerning the abode of the blessed. "Yes," said the youngster, with a sigh of deep weariness, "I know. It's the last place we're going to move to."—Argonaut.

Out of the Ordinary.

"Say," queried the high browed man as he entered the drug emporium, "have you Bighead's balm for baldness?" "No," replied the druggist, "but—" "Oh, yes," interrupted the prospective customer, "of course you have something just as good, but I want what I want. See?" "You are mistaken, my friend," said the pill dispenser. "I haven't anything just as good, but I have something that is far better."—Chicago News.

Soothing the Author.

Actor—in the first act last night, when Roderigo is to shoot me, his gun didn't go off. This sort of thing spoils my play. Manager—It doesn't make any difference whether he shoots you or not. The audience appreciate the situation. They know you are not worth the powder it would take to shoot you and find it very appropriate that the gun misses fire.—Liverpool Mercury.

Unkind Deduction.

Mrs. Benham—I'm going to give a big party on my birthday. Benham—Who will be invited? Mrs. Benham—Just my friends. Benham—I thought you said that you were going to give a big party.—New York Press.

SHEFFIELD PLATE.

History of This Now Very Rare and Valuable Ware.

Sheffield plate differs from all other plated ware in that the plating was done on the sheet metal before the article was shaped. Before and since then plating of various sorts has been applied only to the finished piece, as in our electroplating process. Moreover, the plating was done on copper, while modern base metal is usually composed of an amalgam of copper, nickel and zinc.

Furthermore, it is possible for the collector to secure examples of early Georgian and so called Queen Anne work in Sheffield plate, while the rarity and high money value of silverware of that period make its acquisition extremely difficult. Sheffield plate historically and artistically is as worthy of a place beside old china and old mahogany as is old silverware.

In 1742 one Thomas Bolsover of Sheffield, England, described in the histories as an "ingenious mechanic," accidentally fused some silver and copper while repairing a knife. He began experimenting, seeking for a method of plating copper with silver for the manufacture of small articles. In 1743, together with Joseph Wilson, he set up a factory for the manufacture of buckles, snuffboxes and knife handles.

Joseph Hancock soon got hold of the secret and, perfecting it, demonstrated that it was possible to imitate the finest and most richly embossed silverware. Settling in Sheffield, he started the manufacture of all sorts of domestic pieces. Beginning modestly with horsepower, he later added water power for the rolling process. Other manufacturers followed his example, and Sheffield plate soon began to replace pewter on the tables of the English middle classes. Altogether we know of twenty-three important manufacturers of this ware.

The industry flourished until the middle of the nineteenth century, and so few pieces of copper rolled plate were made after that time that they need not concern the collector. Electroplating was discovered or invented by a medical student of Rotherham, near Sheffield, and the new process was patented on March 25, 1840. By 1850 the new ware was on the market everywhere, and the industry had been revolutionized.—Country Life in America.

BISMARCK'S ANGER.

The Incident That Made Certain the Franco-German War.

The Princess Bismarck, so the story goes, changed the political history of France unwittingly, and but for her the Franco-Prussian war might never have been waged.

Bismarck was unfriendly to France, but the Empress Eugenie hoped with her beauty to influence him so that the little trouble with France and Germany might be smoothed over. She therefore invited the German prince and his wife to visit the court of France, and the Prince and Princess Bismarck arrived in great state at the Tuileries.

That evening there was a grand reception, and Eugenie received the guests in a gown which made her so ravishingly lovely that even Prince Bismarck, German, stolid and in love with his wife, stood and gazed upon her with admiration. And Eugenie was not slow to observe the effect of her beauty upon him. She called him to her side, and Bismarck came, with his wife upon his arm.

Now, the Princess Bismarck was tall and gaunt, and her feet were generous. As she walked she showed a great deal of sole.

While Bismarck stood talking with Eugenie an audible titter was heard along the line of ladies. Bismarck, who was quick as a flash, followed the glance of their eyes and saw them rest upon the feet of his wife.

That settled the matter. The political history of France was altered from that moment.

A year later, when Paris was besieged, Bismarck himself fired a cannon over the ramparts, and those who were near him heard him shout: "Take that for the feet of the Princess Bismarck!"

The slight was avenged.

The Mayflower.

Never did a ship sail with such momentous results as the little west country clipper schooner the Mayflower, but few people have bothered to ask what was her fate after she had landed the heroic band of Englishmen on Plymouth rock. As a matter of fact, she drifted into the cotton trade and sank after many years of service for the East India company at Masulipatam, on the coast of India.—London Standard.

A Third Need.

"You need," said the expert to the sufferer, "two pairs of glasses, one for reading and one for long distance."

"Can't you make it three pairs?" asked the man who had made a study of his own case. "I'd like some short sighted ones to use on bill collectors."—Nashville American.

Agreed With Him.

Father (calling from head of stairs at 11:30 p. m.)—Jennie, don't you think it's about time to go to bed? Jennie—Yes, papa dear. What on earth keeps you up so late?—Pathfinder.

Not Unusual.

"Sometimes," said Uncle Eben, "I ketches mysef lambastin' a mule foh doin' purty much de same as I would do if I was in de mule's place!"—Washington Star.



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Peerages Founded by Trade.

Glance through the Peerage and cross out the peerages founded by trade, and how many would be left? The earldom of Essex was founded by a draper, that of Warwick by a wool stapler, that of Northumberland, the "proud Percys," by an apothecary; that of Lansdowne by a peddler who was so poor that he lived three weeks on walnuts. Lord Tenterden, the chief justice, stopping with his son outside Canterbury cathedral, pointed to a shed opposite and said: "Charles, in that shed your grandfather used to shave for a penny. It is the proudest reflection of my life."—London Answers

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